

# Sewing Problems & Questions

## Frequently Asked Questions

**Q: Adhesive seaming tape is gumming my needles and causing sewing problems (skipped stitches). What should I do?**

**A:** When the long groove of the needle gets fouled with adhesive or melted and dried thermoplastics (synthetic fabric), the thread loop size created for the hook to catch is often decreased resulting in stitch problems. Use of a thread lubricator and silicon thread lubricant will help significantly. Another solution that works is to push the needle into a bar of Ivory soap before installing it in the sewing machine. The soap residue reduces fouling temporarily. Otherwise just clean the needle every now and again with Goo Gone or Rubbing Alcohol.

**Q: My thread is flaking and appears to be leaving dust or powder on my machine?**

**A:** Thread dusting simply means the thread batch you have has more bonding than normal. This will not cause a problem with the quality or strength of the thread, but it may be a nuisance to clean up from time to time. Using a sewing silicon lubricant on the thread and needle will generally reduce the dusting.

**Q: When sewing cushions using a material with a pattern how do I make sure the pattern matches between the cushion plates and the boxing?**

**A:** First, cut the fabric pieces to match the patterns. Start sewing with the pattern properly matched, and force yourself to keep the pattern aligned at all times by “Shrink/Ease” or “Stretching” the material constantly as you sew (i.e., either pushing the top layer of material into the foot (creating a bubble in front of the foot) or you are stretching the top layer to lengthen it). If you do this from the very start, the cushion will work out. I just sewed a striped 8’ cushion and I promise it can be done! This is something that takes some practice to master.



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